

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-31. (canceled).

32. (Currently Amended) A cellulose mixed ester having the following properties:

a total degree of substitution per anhydroglucose unit of from 3.08 to about 3.50, having the following substitutions:

a degree of substitution per anhydroglucose unit of hydroxyl of no more than about 0.70;

a degree of substitution per anhydroglucose unit of C₃-C₄ esters from about 2.11 to about 2.91, and

a degree of substitution per anhydroglucose unit of acetyl of from about 0.10 to about 0.50;

an inherent viscosity of from 0.05 to 0.12 dL/g, as measured in a 60/40 (wt./wt.) solution of phenol/tetrachloroethane at 25 °C;

a number average molecular weight (M_n) of from about 1,000 to about 5,600;

a weight average molecular weight (M_w) of from about 1,500 to about 10,000; and

a polydispersity of from about 1.2 to about 3.5.

33. (Original) The cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32, wherein the C₃-C₄ ester comprises butyryl, and wherein the cellulose mixed ester forms a clear solution as a 10 weight percent mixture in methanol.

34. (Original) The cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32, wherein the C₃-C₄ ester comprises butyryl, and wherein the cellulose mixed ester forms a clear solution as a 10 weight percent mixture in ethanol with 5% water, containing methanol, methyl isobutyl ketone, and ethyl acetate as denaturants.

35. (Original) The cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32, wherein the C₃-C₄ ester comprises butyryl, and wherein the cellulose mixed ester forms a clear solution as a 10 weight percent mixture in toluene.

36. (Original) The cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32, wherein the C₃-C₄ ester comprises butyryl, and wherein the cellulose mixed ester forms a clear solution as a 10 weight percent mixture in a 90/10 (by weight) isopropyl alcohol/ water blend

37. (Original) The cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32, wherein the C₃-C₄ ester comprises propionyl.

38. (Original) The cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32, wherein the degree of substitution per anhydroglucose unit of hydroxyl is from about 0.05 to about 0.70.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Original) The cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32, wherein the number average molecular weight (M_n) is from about 1,500 to about 5,000.

41. (Original) The cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32, wherein the polydispersity is from 1.2 to 2.5.

42. (Original) The cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32, wherein the inherent viscosity is from 0.07 to 0.11 dL/g.

43. (Original) The cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32, wherein the number average molecular weight (M_n) is from about 1,000 to about 4,000.

44. (Original) The cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32, wherein the C₃-C₄ ester comprises butyryl, and wherein the cellulose mixed ester exhibits a viscosity no greater than about 200 centipoise as a 50 wt.% solution in a 90/10 by weight mixture of n-butyl acetate/xylene.

45-46. (Canceled)

47. (Original) A coating composition, comprising:

- a) the cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32;
- b) one or more coating resins; and
- c) one or more solvents.

48-65. (Canceled)

66. (Original) The coating composition according to claim 47, wherein the one or more solvents includes water.

67. (Previously Presented) A coating composition comprising:

- a) about 0.1 to about 50 weight percent, based on the total weight of (a) and (b) in the coating composition, of the cellulose ester according to claim 32;
- b) about 50 to 99.9 weight percent, based on the total weight of (a) and (b) in the composition, of at least one resin selected from the group consisting of a polyester, a polyester-amide, a cellulose ester, an alkyd, a polyurethane, an

epoxy resin, a polyamide, an acrylic, a vinyl polymer, a polyisocyanate, and a melamine; and

c) at least one solvent;

wherein the total weight of (a) and (b) is from about 5 to about 85 weight percent of the total weight of (a), (b), and (c).

68. (Previously Presented) The coating composition according to claim 67, further comprising about 0.1 to about 15 weight percent, based on the total weight of the composition, of one or more coatings additives selected from the group consisting of leveling, rheology, and flow control agents; flattening agents; pigment wetting and dispersing agents; surfactants; ultraviolet (UV) absorbers; UV light stabilizers; tinting pigments; defoaming and antifoaming agents; anti-settling, anti-sag and bodying agents; anti-skinning agents; anti-flooding and anti-floating agents; fungicides and mildewcides; corrosion inhibitors; thickening agents; or coalescing agents.

69. (Previously Presented) The coating composition of claim 68, further comprising one or more fillers and/or pigments.

70. (Previously Presented) The coating composition of claim 69, wherein the pigment is comprised of aluminum or mica.

71. (Previously Presented) A shaped or formed article coated with the composition of claim 67.

72-77. (Canceled)

78. (Previously Presented) A metal coated with the composition according to claim 67.

79-83. (Canceled)

84. (Previously Presented) The cellulose mixed ester according to claim 32 having an acid value no greater than 5.